

It has been shown herein that the assay for RB phosphorylation was readily adaptable to studying material from *in vivo* sources.

### CLAIMS

- 5           1. A method of monitoring the activity of roscovitine comprising  
(i) administering roscovitine to a cell, group of cells, an animal or human,  
and  
(ii) detecting the presence of phosphorylated erk1/2.
- 10           2. A method according to claim 1, wherein roscovitine is administered to a  
mammal.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein roscovitine is administered to  
a human.
- 15           4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the group of cells is a cell culture.
5. A method according to claim 5, wherein the cells are selected from HT29,  
KM12 and HCT116 cells.
- 20           6. A method according to claim 2, wherein the animal is an animal *model a*  
LoVo or KM12 xenograft mouse model.
7. A method according to any previous claim, wherein the presence of  
25           phosphorylated erk1/2 is detected in tumor cells or lymphocytes.
8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein erk1/2  
phosphorylation is monitored at least 24 hours after administration of  
roscovitine.

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9. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein erk1/2 phosphorylation is monitored at least 48 hours after administration of roscovitine.
- 5 10. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the level of phosphorylated erk1/2 is greater than that detected prior to administration of roscovitine.
- 10 11. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising monitoring the level of phosphorylated retinoblastoma (RB) protein.
- 15 12. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the level of phosphorylated retinoblastoma (RB) protein is less than that detected prior to administration of roscovitine.
- 20 13. A method according to any of claims 8 to 12 wherein the level of phosphorylated erk1/2 is monitored after 24 hours and the level of phosphorylated retinoblastoma (RB) protein is monitored at least 72 hours after administration of roscovitine.
- 25 14. A method of assessing suitable dose levels of roscovitine comprising monitoring the degree and rate of erk1/2 phosphorylation after administration of roscovitine to a cell, group of cells, animal model or human.
- 30 15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising correlating the degree and rate of erk1/2 phosphorylation with the known rate of inhibition of either CDK2 or RB phosphorylation by roscovitine at the same dosage, over the same time period.
16. A method of monitoring the activity of roscovitine in a cassette dosing assay whereby a cocktail of roscovitine and other CDKI's are administered

together and roscovitine activity is monitored in accordance with a method of claim 1 to 13.

5 17. A method of identifying a candidate drug having roscovitine-like activity comprising administering said candidate drug to cell, group of cells, animal model or human and monitoring the presence or absence of erk1/2 phosphorylation.

10 18. A method according to any preceding claims, wherein roscovitine is R-roscovitine.

19. Use of phospho-erk 1 and/ or phospho-erk 2 in the monitoring of activity of roscovitine.

15 20. Use according to claim 19, wherein the presence of phosphorylated erk 1 and/or erk 2 is monitored after the administration of roscovitine to a cell, group of cells, an animal model or human.

20 21. Use according to claim 19 or 20, wherein roscovitine is R-roscovitine.

22. A kit for assessing the activity of roscovitine comprising antibodies for at least one of phospho-erk1 or phospho-erk2 and optionally antibodies for RB (whole), RB Ser780 or RB Ser608.

25 23. A kit according to claim 22, wherein the antibodies are for phospho-erk1 or phospho-erk2 alone or in combination with one of the RB antibodies.

24. A kit according to claim 23, wherein the RB antibody is for RB Ser608.

30 25. A kit according to any of claims 22-24, wherein roscovitine is R-roscovitine.

26. Use of a kit as defined in any of claims 20 to 22, in a method defined in any of claims 1 to 13.